Drought Assistance to Rajasthan

3959. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much financial assistance has been given to Rajasthan to face drought and for drought relief work during 2000-2001;

(b) the number of Taluks in the State declared as drought affected during 2001-2002;

(c) the amount of additional grant sought for by the State Government;

(d) the reasons for not sanctioning the required amount; and

(e) whether it is a fact that Rs. 150 crore loan taken by the State Government from NABARD, is yet to be paid by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance amounting to Rs. 163.97 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was released to the State, for the drought of 2000-01.

(b) According to the State Government, 3940 villages in 3 districts have been affected by drought, during 2001-02.

(c) and (d) No Memorandum seeking additional assistance from NCCF has been received from the State Government for the drought of 2001-02.

(e) The State Government have reported that a loan of Rs. 147.71 crore has been taken by them from NABARD and is to be repaid by them.

Feed and Fodder Development in Karnataka

3960. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of implementation of Central Sector and centrally sponsored scheme of Feed and Fodder Development and the amount released to Karnataka so far; and

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Centre for more funds for 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government of India has the following schemes:

(i) Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration Farms located in different agro-climatic zones in the country and I Central Fodder Seed Production Farm at Hesserghatta, Bangalore. These farms are engaged in multiplication of newly evolved varieties of fodder and grasses seeds, organizing training programmes on fodder crops and conducting fodder demonstrations at farmer's fields.

(ii) Central Miniket Testing Programme under which fodder kits are supplied to the farmers through State Governments free of cost.

During 9th plan, the Government of Karnataka was released an amount of Rs. 105.00 lakhs, Rs. 126.00 lakhs and Rs. 93.00 lakhs in the year of 1997-98, 1998-99 and 2000-2001 respectively.

(b) Yes Sir, Government of Karnataka has requested the centre for release of Rs. 86.75 lakhs during 2001-2002 for feed and fodder development. This amount could not be released due to non-furnishing of fund utilization certificate for earlier release of Rs. 93.00 lakhs.

Encouraging Agricultural Research

†3961. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to encourage agricultural research and inventigation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of annual percentage of expenditure being incurred by Government and private sector for agricultural research and investigation;

(c) whether this amount is sufficient for above work; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.